

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: GOQ REPORTED TO BE ORGANIZING FULL SCALE STUDY
OF CANADIAN FEDERALISM

1. ACCORDING TO A LE DEVOIR NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, THE GOQ HAS DECIDED TO CONDUCT A COMPLETE AND DETAILED "TRIAL" OF CANADIAN FEDERALISM BEGINNING IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF 1977. THIS TRIAL (PROCES) WILL PRODUCE AS PRECISE AN ANALYSIS AS POSSIBLE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF QUEBEC PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL REGIME. IT WILL MEASURE SECTOR BY SECTOR THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF FEDERALISM AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, THE CONCRETE CONSEQUENCES OF FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN QUEBEC. THE CONDUCT OF THIS TRIAL WILL BE CONFIDED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CLAUDE MORIN. LE DEVOIR NOTES THAT THIS STUDY OR TRIAL WILL BE UNDERTAKEN EVEN THOUGH GOQ HAS NOT YET DEVELOPED ANY OFFICIAL AND DEFINITIVE SCENARIO CONCERNING STEPS TO FOLLOW BEFORE THE REFERENDUM IS HELD.

2. WHILE THE STUDY WILL NOT NEGLECT DIFFICULT FINANCIAL QUESTIONS OF GAINS OR LOSSES FROM FEDERALISM, LE DEVOIR'S SOURCES INDICATED MORIN STUDY WILL CONCENTRATE ON EXPLAINING
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RESTRICTIONS AND CONSTRAINTS FEDERAL INTERVENTION POSES FOR GOQ. THE MAIN GOAL OF THE "TRIAL" WILL BE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE LACK OF COMPLETE POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY IMPEDES GOQ FROM TOTALLY ASSUMING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND FROM TAKING ALL POLITICAL ACTIONS IT FEELS NECESSARY FOR WELL-BEING OF POPULATION. TO THIS END, STUDY WILL COVER ALL ASPECTS OF

PROBLEMS WHETHER THEY ARE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, OR CULTURAL IN NATURE. ANALYSIS FOR EACH SECTOR WILL BE RELEASED WHEN COMPLETED.

3. DETAILED SECTOR BY SECTOR ANALYSIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A MORE GLOBAL TEXT WHICH WILL GIVE AN OUTLINE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS QUEBEC WILL SEEK "TO INSURE ITS FULL DEVELOPMENT." LE DEVOIR WRITES THAT THIS TEXT WILL PROBABLY BE THE BASE DOCUMENT FOR A REFERENDUM.

4. COMMENT: LE DEVOIR STORY HAS BEEN NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED. IT SEEMS QUITE LOGICAL THAT THE PQ WOULD BEGIN SUCH A STUDY, HOWEVER, AND CALL IT A TRIAL. THIS COULD BE FIRST CONCRETE STEP IN PROCESS OF "EDUCATING" THE POPULATION FOR THE REFERENDUM. WHILE THIS STUDY WILL BE DONE ON A LARGER SCALE, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE TASK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY TO MAINTAIN BALANCE SHEETS ON FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR EFFECTS. CLAUDE MORIN SHOULD BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO LEAD STUDY AS HIS TWO BOOKS - LE POUVOIR QUEBECOIS...EN NEGOCIATION AND LE COMBAT QUEBECOIS - ATTEMPTED TO PUT FEDERALISM ON TRIAL IN A SIMILAR MANNER.

5. AS GOAL OF STUDY WILL BE TO CONVINCE QUEBECOIS THAT QUEBEC CANNOT DEVELOP ECONOMICALLY NOR PROTECT ITS CULTURE WITHOUT FULL SOVEREIGNTY, ITS FINDINGS ARE REALLY KNOWN IN ADVANCE. PQ COULD NOT PUBLISH FINDINGS DEMONSTRATING PROFITABILITY OF FEDERALISM (IF SUCH IS INDEED THE CASE) WITHOUT FATALLY WEAKENING THEIR ARGUMENT. IT WILL THEREFORE BE CRITICAL FOR OPPOSITION PARTIES, MEDIA, AND PERHAPS EVEN THE FEDERAL GOVT TO FOLLOW, SCRUTINIZE AND ANALYZE THE "TRIAL" PROCEDURE.
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TO THIS END, LE SOLEIL HAS ALREADY WRITTEN EDITORIALY THAT THE OPPOSITION SHOULD NOW EXTRACT PROMISE FROM PQ THAT ENTIRE TEXTS OF STUDIES AND THEIR METHODOLOGIES WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AND THAT GROUND RULES FOR REFERENDUM SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED RIGHT NOW.

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